



➤ *Passengers who were rescued from a train after it was attacked by BLA militants, walk with their belongings at the Railway Station in Quetta on Wednesday.*
Reuters

SIBI

It felt like doomsday. There was panic everywhere. There were more than 100 armed assailants, says survivor Ashraf; another survivor Babar says ‘the separatists told us to get out and not look back’

Survivors recall horrific Jaffar Express attack in Balochistan

Scores of traumatised passengers managed to reach the Mach Railway Station on foot after terrorists, who had taken people hostage on the Jaffar Express, let them get off the train. Survivors of the Jaffar Express attack have described the harrowing ordeal, recalling the chaos and terror that unfolded during the incident near Mach, Balochistan. Speaking to the media, a survivor stated, “After the explosion, we had no idea what was happening. Armed men checked the identity cards of the passengers on the train.” Jaffar Express passenger Noor Muhammad said, “After the blast, there was intense gunfire, and we had to run for our lives.” A female survivor recounted, “We were sitting in the train when suddenly a blast occurred, and we were ordered to step out. We had to walk for two hours after the attack.” Passenger Muhammad Ashraf described the scene as apocalyptic, saying, “It felt like doomsday. There was panic everywhere. The attackers did not harm women or elderly passengers. There were more than 100 armed assailants.”

He further mentioned that Pakistan Army personnel at Paneer Station provided aid and comforted the passengers, who were all in a state of fear. Earlier, security officials said that the train, carrying 400 passengers in nine bogies, was en route from Quetta to Peshawar on Tuesday when an unknown number of terrorists took passengers hostage. They said the suicide bombers are holding women and children at three different locations, using them as human shields. The train was hijacked in a remote, mountainous region near the Afghanistan-Iran border. Separatist militants wearing suicide vests were seated next to some of the dozens of passengers held hostage in a train hijack in southwest Pakistan, complicating rescue efforts, security officials said on Wednesday. About 60 Balochi militants blew up a railway track and lobbed rockets on Tuesday at the Jaffar Express, carrying more than 400 passengers, a security official said. So far, 190 of them have been rescued, government officials

said. “People were attacked ... passengers were injured and some passengers died,” said Muhammad Ashraf, who was on the train. The train driver was killed after suffering serious injuries, police and railway officials said. Some injured passengers have been shifted to the nearby hospital while additional security squads are taking part in the operation in the area. An AFP photographer in Quetta, the provincial capital, witnessed about 150 empty coffins being transported by train to the incident site on Wednesday. Muhammad Kashif, a senior railway government official in Quetta, said on Tuesday afternoon that the 450 passengers on board had been taken hostage. “A large number of (paramilitary) personnel and their families were on board the Jaffar Express, travelling home for their vacations,” said a senior security official stationed in Quetta on Wednesday. He added that the coffins are “reserved for military personnel” and some civilians. “Sending 150 coffins does not necessarily

mean that 150 people were killed,” he said. Passengers who walked for hours through rugged mountains to reach safety described being set free by the militants. “Our women pleaded with them, and they spared us,” Babar Masih, a 38-year-old Christian labourer told AFP on Wednesday. “They told us to get out and not look back. As we ran, I noticed many others running alongside us.” Muhammad Bilal, who was travelling with his mother on the Jaffar Express train, described their ordeal as “terrifying.” “I can’t find the words to describe how we managed to escape,” he told AFP. The BLA has staged a series of recent attacks against security forces and ethnic groups from outside the province who they accuse of benefiting from the region’s wealth. The group has demanded an exchange with security forces for its imprisoned members. Several passengers told AFP that gunmen demanded to see identity cards to confirm who was from outside the province, similar to a spate of recent attacks carried out by the BLA. *Tariq Butt / Agencies*

Railways temporarily suspends entire operation in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Railways (PR) has temporarily suspended its entire operations from Punjab and Sindh to Balochistan and vice versa, following the terrorist attack on the Jaffar Express. Meanwhile, the security forces are engaged in an intense operation against terrorists, who hijacked the train and have killed dozens of them. Pakistan Railways Chief Executive Officer Amir Ali Baloch said that the passenger and freight trains would remain suspended until security and law enforcement agencies notified them that the area has been cleared and the law and order situation in Balochistan has normalised. “We are in touch with the security agencies but I cannot share what is happening on the ground at the moment,” he said, while praying for the safety of all passengers, crew members and others concerned. The official said that railway teams, at the request of the concerned authorities, had also arranged for a special train to transport security forces officials from Sibi to the area where the attack took place. Meanwhile, the Jaffar Express (down) left Lahore and will terminate at Sukkur/Rohri. “It will not move further for Quetta, as the security situation is not good,” Lahore Deputy Station

Manager Muhammad Asif said. He said the Pakistan Railways cancelled two trains — Shah Hussain Express and Pak Business Train — due to low reservations. “Passengers who had confirmed reservations for these trains were accommodated in the Karakoram and Karachi express trains,” he said. Authorities restrict access to some areas of Balochistan where many energy and infrastructure projects are backed by China, which has invested billions in the region including in a major port and airport. Also during the day, Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi stated that the attack on Jaffar Express was a well-planned act and part of a foreign conspiracy. Abbasi emphasised that if authorities had prior intelligence about the attack, preventive measures would have been taken. He reiterated that Pakistan continues to face terrorism, and all global powers, including China, the US, and Pakistan, stand united against terrorism. Abbasi also linked the recent attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to a neighbouring country’s conspiracy and stressed that Pakistan’s security forces are responding with full capability. He acknowledged the sacrifices of youth and security personnel in thwarting such attacks. *Tariq Butt*

Man commits suicide after teen daughter declared ‘Vani’ in DIK

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A father ended his life by swallowing poisonous pills after his 11-year-old daughter was given as Vani (forced marriage) by a village jirga (council) to settle a dispute in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, police said on Wednesday. Before this tragic incident, the jirga had also taken Rs600,000 from the poor barber named Adil. Vani is a custom where girls, often minors, are given in marriage or servitude to an aggrieved family as compensation to end disputes, often murder or involving females. The incident emerged after an audio recording of the father, Adil, who goes by one name, was posted on social media this week, in which he says he was coerced into the agreement by a jirga — or a council of elders. “Adil took his own life by consuming poison to save his 11-year-old daughter from being given away,” said local police official Khalid Javed Khan. “He made it clear that he did not accept the jirga’s verdict and would rather die.” Police officials have said that the affected girl has been handed over to her family. The incident has sparked grief and outrage among locals, who are demanding severe punishment for those responsible. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed has taken notice of the case and sought a detailed report.

Regional Police Officer Syed Ashfaq Anwar directed Assistant Superintendent Police (ASP) Ali Hamza to ensure the swift arrest of all involved. Police have arrested three men from the jirga, held in remote Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A second police official in the district, Sahibzada Sajjad, confirmed the details. The jirga was called after a young woman said she was sexually harassed by Adil’s nephew while attending a wedding. The nephew was fined Rs600,000 (\$2,144), which he paid, but Adil was also held responsible because the incident occurred at his home. “A local tribal jirga ruled that his daughter must be handed over as compensation,” police official Khan added. “She would be forcibly married to the brother of the girl who had been harassed.” He added that Adil’s six daughters “are now safe.” Traditional jirgas, or village councils of elder men, that settle local disputes are commonplace across rural Pakistan and operate legally alongside the modern court system. The law however bans the use of women and girls in settlements, but it remains routine. The harshest punishments claim to be on the grounds of preserving a family’s honour, and can include sexual assault and forced marriage. *Agencies*

Invitation for Annual General Assembly Meeting Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Co. (PJSC)

The Board of Directors of Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Co. (PJSC) is pleased to invite all Shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) through **Personal attendance** at the company's Headquarters located in the "Al Hisn Tower" building - Floor (14) - Banks Street - Rolla - Sharjah /or Remotely" (through the use of Remote Presence Technology - virtual meeting with visual communication and electronic voting, to be held on Thursday, 10/4/2025 at 11:00 am, to consider the following Agenda.

Agenda for Annual General Meeting:-

1. Review of the Board of Directors' Report in relation to the company's activities for the financial year ended **31/12/2024**
2. Review and approval of External Auditors' Report for the year ended **31/12/2024**
3. Review and approval of the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account of the company for the year ended **31/12/2024**
4. To consider the proposal of the Board of Directors to distribute cash dividends to the shareholders amounting to 5% of the capital (at the rate of .5 fils per share), equivalent to AED, **(30,412,687)**, **(Thirty million Four hundred twelve thousand Six hundred eighty-seven)** for the financial year ended **31.12.2024**.
5. To consider the proposal of the Board of Directors to remunerate the Board members for the year **2024**
6. To discharge the liability of the Board Members for the financial year **2024**.
7. To discharge the liability of the Auditors for the financial year **2024**
8. Appointment/ Reappointment of Auditors for the Financial Year **2025** and fix their fees.

Remarks:

1. Shareholders registered in the Shareholders Register on **Wednesday, 9/4/2025** who have the right to attend the AGM, may delegate any person, other than a member of the Board of Directors, employees of the company, or Brokerage Company or it employees to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, under a specially written proxy. (in accordance with SCA's approved form). A proxy of several shareholders shall not hold in this capacity over (5%) of the company's share capital. Shareholders who are minors or legally incapacitated shall be represented by their legal representatives. Provided that the requirements set forth in Clauses (1) and (2) of Article No. (40) of the SCA's Board Chairman Decision No. (3 / RM) of 2020 concerning the approval of the Public Shareholding Company Governance Guide, are taken into consideration. You can read the disclosure published on the company's page and on the ADX's website regarding the procedures required for the approval of the power of attorney.
2. A corporate person may delegate one of its representatives or those in charge of its management under a resolution passed by its Board of Directors or any similar entity to represent such corporate person in the AGM of the company. The delegated person shall have the powers as determined under the delegation resolution.
3. The shareholder's signature on the power of Attorney referred to in clause No, "1" above, shall be the signature approved by any of the following entities:
 - a) Notary Public.
 - b) Commercial Chamber or Economic Department in UAE.
 - c) A bank or company licensed in UAE provided that the agent shall have an account with any of them.
 - d) **Financial markets licensed in UAE.**
 - e) Any other entity licensed to perform attestation works.
4. Shareholders registered in the Shareholders Register on **Wednesday, 9/4/2025** shall be entitled to vote in the AGM and registered on the electronic system.
5. The AGM shall only be valid after the electronic registration of shareholders who own or represent by proxy not less than 50% of the company's capital. If this quorum is not met at the first meeting, the Second Meeting will be held on **Thursday, 17/4/2025** at the same time and place above mentioned. The postponed meeting shall be valid regardless of the number of attendees. The Powers of Attorney for the first meeting shall be valid for representation at the second meeting.
6. Shareholders registered in the Shareholders Register on **Sunday, 20/4/2025** shall be entitled to receive the Dividends in the event of the First Meeting, or on **Sunday 27/4/2025** in the event of the Second Meeting.
7. Electronic Registration will be opened on **Wednesday, 9/4/2025 at 11:00 am** and will be closed on **Thursday 10/4/2025 at (11:00) am**.
8. For Electronic Registration, the shareholder has to visit the following link: www.smartagm.ae.
9. Any proxy holder must send e-mail to **FAB "The Arranger"** the proxies and any supporting documents to the e-mail: IS@bankfab.com and mention his personal mobile number so that the Arranger can do the verification and send by short message service (**SMS**) to complete the registration.
10. To enquire about registration and voting procedures please visit the website: www.smartagm.ae or contact the company's Investor Relation by phone no: 06-5695666 / e-mail: scidcho@eim.ae.
11. Shareholders can view Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended **31/12/2024** Corporate Governance Report, & Sustainability Report for **2024**, company's "Integrated Report" and any documents related to the General Assembly Meeting on the websites: www.sharjahcement.com / www.adx.ae and the Guide on Investor rights in Securities, on SCA's official website on the following link. <https://www.sca.gov.ae/ar/services/minority-investor-protection.aspx>

For inquiries, please contact one of the following phones: **06/5695666- 5684681-5686102**

Board of Directors

Explanatory disclosure on the approval of powers of attorney

According to Clauses 1 & 2 of Article 40 of the Corporate Governance Manual, we would like to inform the shareholders with the following:

Each shareholder who has the right to attend the general assembly may delegate someone from other than the Board members or the staff of the company, or securities brokerage company, or its employees, to attend on his behalf as per a written delegation stating expressly that the agent has the right to attend the general assembly and vote on its decision. A delegated person for a number of shareholders shall not have more than (5%) of the Company issued capital after gaining that delegation. Persons lacking legal capacity and are incompetent must be represented by their legal representatives.

The shareholder signature on the power of attorney referred to in clause No. "1" shall be the signature approved by any of the following entities:

- (a) Notary Public.
- (b) Chamber of Commercial or Economic Department in the country.
- (c) Bank or company licensed in the country, provided that the agent shall have an account with any of them.
- (d) Financial Markets licensed in the country.
- (e) Any other entity licensed to perform attestation works.

The Proxy form shall include the name & contact number(s) of the shareholder and the brokerage firm who approved the proxy. This form / power of attorney / delegation / Proxy is a guiding form whereby the client has the power to issue the Proxy in accordance with the limits and powers he deems appropriate, all of this is with the obligation that the signature of the shareholder mentioned in the proxy be the signature approved by / with one of the above-mentioned authorities. For further inquiries or clarification please contact us at 06/5695666 & or email us at scidcho@eim.ae.